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Application No.: 09/778,478

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-24. Canceled.

25. (New) A method for use in a base station for providing multiple grades of service to a plurality of subscriber units requesting traffic channels, the method comprising:

detecting a request from a plurality of subscriber units to transmit data to or receive data from the base station using a plurality of traffic channels; and

assigning a priority level for each of the detected requests, the priority level being associated with the subscriber unit transmitting the request;

comparing the priority level for each of the subscriber unit against a threshold; and

allocating at least one traffic channel to each of the subscriber units requesting to transmit data to or receive data from the base station based on the priority level of the subscriber unit.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the priority level of the subscriber unit depends on the subscriber unit's historical usage of base station resources.

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27. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the subscriber unit is assigned a lower priority level when the subscriber unit's historical usage is higher than the threshold for a predetermined period of time.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein the lower priority level results in the subscriber unit being allocated fewer traffic channels than a subscriber unit assigned a higher priority level.

29. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the subscriber unit is assigned a higher priority level when the subscriber unit's historical usage is lower than the threshold.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein the higher priority level results in the subscriber unit being allocated more traffic channels than a subscriber unit assigned a lower priority level.

31. (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
reserving at least one traffic channel for subscriber units having the lowest priority level; and

creating a queue of detected requests from subscriber units with the lowest priority level to ensure that subscriber units with the lowest priority level are allocated the at least one traffic channel at predetermined times.

32. (New) A base station comprising:
circuitry configured to detect a request from a plurality of subscriber units to transmit data to or receive data from the base station using a plurality of traffic

channels;

circuitry configured to assign a priority level for each of the detected requests, the priority level being associated with the subscriber unit transmitting the request;

circuitry configured to compare the priority level for each of the subscriber unit against a threshold; and

circuitry configured to allocate the traffic channels to each of the subscriber units requesting to transmit data to or receive data from the base station based on the priority level of the subscriber unit.

33. (New) The base station of claim 32 wherein the priority level of the subscriber unit depends on the subscriber unit's historical usage of base station resources.

34. (New) The base station of claim 32 wherein the subscriber unit is assigned a lower priority level when the subscriber unit's historical usage is higher than the threshold for a predetermined period of time.

35. (New) The base station of claim 34 wherein the lower priority level results in the subscriber unit being allocated fewer traffic channels than a subscriber unit assigned a higher priority level.

36. (New) The base station of claim 32 wherein the subscriber unit is assigned a higher priority level when the subscriber unit's historical usage is lower than the threshold.

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37. (New) The base station of claim 36 wherein the higher priority level results in the subscriber unit being allocated more traffic channels than a subscriber unit assigned a lower priority level.

38. (New) The base station of claim method of claim 32, further comprising:

circuitry configured to reserve at least one traffic channel for subscriber units having the lowest priority level; and

circuitry configured to create a queue of detected requests from subscriber units with the lowest priority level to ensure that subscriber units with the lowest priority level are allocated the at least one traffic channel at predetermined times.